

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

RD - National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme – Andhra Pradesh (NREGS-AP) –Collaboration between RD and Forest Departments for Afforestation Programme - Orders – Issued.

PANCHAYAT RAJ & RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RD.II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms. No.385

Dated: 14.10.2008

Read the Following:

1. NREG Act, 2005 dated 05-09-05.
2. G.O.Ms.No.27 PR&RD (RD-II), Department, Dated:28.01.06.
3. PCCF Reference NO. 6036/2008/U2, Dated: 30-04-08.
4. Memo No. 9996/R.D.II/A1/2008-1, Dated: 5-5-08.
5. Letter No. 3954/NREGS-AP/FD Collaboration/2008, Dated:06-06-08.

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ORDER:

The Government of India, vide reference first cited, enacted the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 with an objective to assure at least hundred days of wage employment for every rural household who demand work and are willing to do manual labour. The Government of Andhra Pradesh issued orders, vide reference second cited, detailing the process for operationalising the provisions of the NREG Act.

A list of categories of works that could be taken up under the NREG Scheme is given in the Annexures to the Act. Based on this, the NREGS-AP Scheme has provided, under para-10 (iii) of the reference second cited, that 20% of funds could be utilized for taking up plantation activities.

The Commissioner Rural Development and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests have held several meetings and workshops to come out with a working collaboration between the two departments for taking up plantation work both inside the Reserved Forest area as well as under Social Forestry. The working collaboration has been mutually agreed through the references 3rd to 5th cited above.

Government, after careful consideration, issue orders formalizing the collaborative initiative between the Forest Department and the Rural Development Department for taking up plantation activities under NREGS-AP. This initiative will have the following objectives:

1. To provide wage employment to the wage seekers in rural areas and in the forest fringe villages by taking up Afforestation and Tree plantation works.
2. To contribute to environmental and ecological improvement by taking up large scale tree plantations and improvement of the natural regeneration in reserved Forest areas, community lands, poor farmers' land etc.

(P.T.O)

3. To ensure enhanced returns to the communities viz., VSS, User Groups, Farmers' groups, village communities etc., in terms of Fodder, Fire wood, small timber, MFP and other usufruct.

The roles and responsibilities of the two departments will be as follows:

A. Forest Department:

- Prepare a five year comprehensive Perspective Plan for taking up plantations both inside the reserved forests as well as under social forestry.
- Prepare Annual Action Plans in participatory approach
- Assign clear roles to the territorial and social forestry wings for participating in this initiative.
- Organize technical training to the forest staff as well as staff working with RD Department
- Provide technical supervision to all types of activities taken up by the department under NREGS-AP
- Arrange for field staff to collect the required input data for the works proposed in the Action Plan to enable generation of estimates through the computer in the Mandal Computer Center.
- Instruct the field staff i.e., Beat Officer / Section Officer to attend the Grama Sabha convened in the village to take the approval of the works identified for inclusion in the NREGS Shelf of works.
- Provide ground marking, technical design and all other technical inputs to the wage seeker groups before grounding the work and also during its execution.
- The field staff of the Forest Department will do the check measurement of the works.
- Help RD Department in developing templates for works to be included in the NREGS-AP software
- Help RD Department in work time motion studies for new works/tasks, whenever required
- Authorize the Divisional Forest Officers to receive fund from the Project Director DWMA, maintain separate account, take up centralized activities like procurement of bags, plant material, etc and render accounts to the PD DWMA
- Delegate necessary powers and authority to DFOs and FROs for sanctioning of works and for supervision, wherever needed
- Provide any other technical support as may be required
- Maintain registers and records of all the plantations as may be required

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B. Rural Development Department:

- Organize Orientation training to all field staff of Forest Department
- Facilitate issue of Job Cards and opening of individual savings accounts to the families identified by the Forest Department
- Facilitate inclusion of works identified by the FD in each village in the GP NREGS shelf of works.
- Facilitate generation of estimates for works identified by the Forest Department in the Mandal Computer Centers based on the input data sheet provided by the forest staff.
- Arrange for Admin. Sanctions to the works identified by the Forest Department
- Ensure that PD DWMA releases funds for centralized activities to the DFOs designated, as per the requisition
- Ensure that the Field Assistant along with Mates maintain the muster roll at each work spot and supervise the execution of works under the guidance of the field staff of the FD.
- Ensure that the Technical Assistant measures the work every week and sends the muster along with measurement sheets to the MCC for generation of the pay orders.
- Ensure that the APO NREGS and the MPDO arranges the payments for the works carried out under the supervision of the FD staff
- Ensure that the final payments are made only after check measurement by the competent staff of FD.
- Ensure that the MPDO involves the forest department staff in all the processes of the NREGS-AP at mandal level
- Ensure that frequent joint meetings of the two departments are held at all levels
- Any other responsibility as may be required

C. General:

- The rates for all the proposed works will be adopted from the Rural SSR of the NREGS-AP **or** from the FSR / SSR. For an item of work not found in any of these schedules, Forest Department will collect the data and its Technical Committee will scrutinize and recommend the same for inclusion in the Rural SSR of NREGS-AP/FSR.
- Execution of works will be done totally following the NREGS-AP guidelines.
- The payment of wage component will be, generally, made in to the postal accounts of the Wage seekers as per the pay order generated in the MCC. In cases where the postal network is poor, payment will be made through VSS **or** through the Village Organizations **or** through smart card.

(P.T.O)

- Payment for material component will be advanced to the DFO concerned by the PD DWMA and the DFO will in turn render vouchers & accounts for the same.
- A committee consisting of Officers of both Forest Department & Rural Development shall be set up which will meet as frequently as necessary to monitor the implementation of this joint project of NREGS – Afforestation Programme.

These orders come in to force with immediate effect

A copy of this order is available on the Internet and can be accessed at the address <http://www.rd.ap.gov.in>

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

**K.RAJU
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (RD)**

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, AP Hyderabad

The Commissioner, Rural Development, A.P. Hyderabad.

Copy to:

The Special Chief Secretary EF & ST Department,
Commissioner AMR-APARD,

The Dist. Collectors and Dist. Programme Coordinators, NREGS-AP
Project Directors, DWMA and Additional District Programme
Coordinators of NREGS-AP.

Project Directors, DRDAs and Additional District Programme
Coordinators of NREGS-AP.

Chief Executive Officers, ZPs and Additional District Programme
Coordinators NREGS-AP

Project Officers, ITDA and Additional District Programme Coordinators
of NREGS- AP

PS to Principal Secretary to Govt. (RD)

PR & RD Dept. (Genl) Dept.,
SF/SC

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER